TRENDS

A3275-2
10/26/88

ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

Office of Information
and Public Affairs
50 F Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20001
(202) 639-2555

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, October 20, 1988 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended October 15 totaled estimated 19.7 billion ton-miles, up 2.0 percent from the 19.4 billion carried in the comparable week of 1987, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 41 weeks of 1988 was an estimated 787.3 billion ton-miles carried, up 6.6 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings originated in the week ended October 15 totaled 450,255, up 1.9 percent from the corresponding week of last year, but down 0.1 percent from the preceding week. Compared with last year, carloadings originated were down 0.7 percent in the East, but up 4.9 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of last year, 11 of the 20 major commodity groups decreased. Loadings of chemical and allied products were up 3,336 cars (12.8 percent); metallic ores increased by 1,847 cars (9.0 percent); but grain was down 2,734 cars (8.0 percent). Eleven of the 20 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

Piggyback traffic for the week ended October 8 totaled 123,542 trailers and/or containers, up 6.1 percent from the comparable week of 1987.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 40 weeks of the year was 4,417,387 trailers and/or containers, up 5.7 percent from 1987.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 10/15/88:

	Loadings in Week ended October 15, 1988		Change from Corresponding Week 1987			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	31,345	D	2,734	8.0	D	376	1.2
Other farm products	4,029	D	692	14.7	I	46	1.2
Metallic ores	22,410	I	1,847	9.0	I	2,153	10.6
Coal	126,781	I	454	0.4	D	1,932	1.5
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	19,592	I	1,221	6.6	I	134	0.7
Nonmetallic minerals	11,050	I	1,810	19.6	D	183	1.6
Grain mill products	10,577	D	679	6.0	D	225	2.1
Food and kindred products	11,744	I	490	4.4	I	332	2.9
Primary forest products	10,133	D	651	6.0	I	665	7.1
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,218	D	626	8.0	I	567	8.5
Pulp, paper and allied products	11,815	D	134	1.1	I	168	1.4
Chemicals and allied products	29,356	I	3,336	12.8	I	519	1.8
Petroleum products	4,916	I	33	0.7	D	343	6.5
Stone, clay and glass products	11,474	D	400	3.4	D	233	2.0
Coke	5,421	D	207	3.7	D	688	11.3
Metals and products	10,092	D	71	0.7	I	841	9.1
Motor vehicles and equipment	21,603	I	258	1.2	I	321	1.5
Waste and scrap materials	10,068	D	109	1.1	I	536	5.6
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	2,385	D	667	21.9	D	190	7.4
All other carloads	88,246	I	6,042	7.4	D	2,531	2.8
Total Cars Loaded	450,255	I	8,521	1.9	D	419	0.1
Corresponding week of 1987	441,734						

	1988	1987	% Change	
Total Cars Loaded (41 weeks)	17,437,495	16,656,944	I	4.7
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
40 weeks ended October 8	767.5	718.9	I	6.8
Week ended October 15	19.7	19.4	I	2.0
41 Weeks cumulative	787.3	738.3	I	6.6

#

AARt - 102088